

In the Claims

1. (Original) A method for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:  
planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;  
determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,  
determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising  
obtaining a customer order, the customer order including the item ordered by a customer, the customer order including a desired shipping schedule, the desired shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited shipping method.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the item is an information handling system.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes determining a size of the order.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes determining a size of the customer order.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein

the order includes line of business information; and  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the line of  
business information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week information; and,  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the time of day  
and day of week information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and,  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the hub  
information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and,  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the service  
level information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and,  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the shipping  
cost information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and,  
the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the preference  
information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein  
the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and,

the determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes analyzing the plurality of carrier service information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

14. (Original) A method for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:  
planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;  
determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,  
choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services includes ranking the plurality of carrier services based upon carrier service information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and

total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the item is an information handling system.

18. (Original) A system for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:

means for planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;

means for determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,

means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising means for obtaining a customer order, the customer order including the item ordered by a customer, the customer order including a desired shipping schedule, the desired shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited shipping method.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the item is an information handling system.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for determining a size of the order.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for determining a size of the customer order.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the order includes line of business information; and the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the line of business information.
24. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week information; and, the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the time of day and day of week information.
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and, the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the hub information.
26. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and, the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the service level information.
27. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and, the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the shipping cost information.
28. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and, the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the preference information.
29. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and,

the means for determining a carrier service for shipping the item includes means for analyzing the plurality of carrier service information.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

31. (Original) A system for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:  
means for planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;  
means for determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,  
means for choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the means for choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services includes means for ranking the plurality of carrier services based upon carrier service information.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and

total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the item is an information handling system.

35. (Original) An apparatus for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:

a time planning module, the time planning module planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;

a shipping window module, the shipping window module determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,

a carrier service determining module, the carrier service determining module determining a carrier service for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 further comprising an order obtaining module, the order obtaining module, obtaining a customer order, the customer order including the item ordered by a customer, the customer order including a desired shipping schedule, the desired shipping schedule corresponding to the expedited shipping method.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the item is an information handling system.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the carrier service determining module determines a size of the order.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the carrier service determining module determines a size of the customer order.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the order includes line of business information; and the carrier service determining module analyzes the line of business information.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding time of day and day of week information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the time of day and day of week information.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding hub information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the hub information.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding service level information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the service level information.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 49 36 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding shipping cost information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the shipping cost information.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the carrier service includes corresponding preference information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the preference information.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 49 36 wherein the carrier service includes a plurality of carrier service information; and, the carrier service determining module analyzes the plurality of carrier service information.



47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 44 ~~46~~ wherein the plurality of carrier service information includes at least two of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.
48. (Original) An apparatus for scheduling manufacture of an item in a factory comprising:
- a time planning module, the time planning module planning a time for manufacturing an item so as to have the manufacture of the item complete during a desired shipping window;
  - a shipping window determining module, the shipping window determining module determining the desired shipping window so as to allow the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method; and,
  - a carrier service choosing module, the carrier service choosing module choosing from one of a plurality of carrier services for shipping the item so as to enable the item to be shipped via a lower cost shipping method while arriving at a destination as if shipped via an expedited shipping method.
49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the carrier service choosing module ranks the plurality of carrier services based upon carrier service information.
50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the carrier service information includes at least one of carrier service shipping location information, line of business and order size information, shipment weight and maximum piece weight information, hub denied for destination information, service level information, shipping facility destination, zip code service level and

total in transit information, time of day and day of week information, carrier and hub preference information, and zone rates and unit haul rates information.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the item is an information handling system.